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bination of the floods of the three tributaries on the lower river. Stages below the average low water mark are recorded from the last of July until the last of February, a period of seven months; while stages above the average high water mark are shown from the last

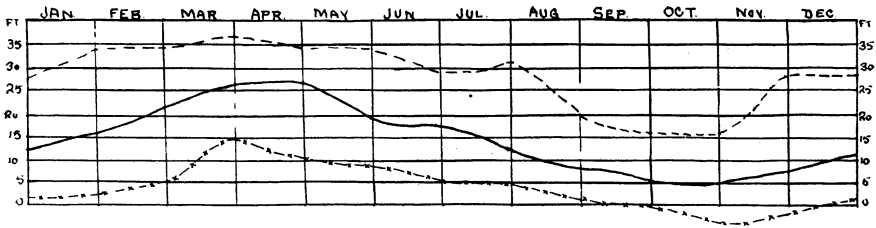


FIG. 5.

of November until the middle of August, over eight months. The lowest stages are recorded during October and November, and the highest during March and April. The high water rise may begin as early as November 1 or be delayed until March 1. A consistent fall in stage during August and September and a consistent rise during March are also recorded.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEATHER BUREAU

BY

R. DE C. WARD

The new series of publications dealing with the climatology of the United States, issued by the Weather Bureau, includes a number of bulletins. A ten-page summary of the climatological data for Maine ("Section 106," in the new classification), contains a brief account of the "climatic characteristics" of New England as a whole, with special reference to Maine; a series of tables of monthly and annual rainfalls for 22 stations (running back in one case to the year 1837); miscellaneous data, including average number of days with .01 inch or more of precipitation, mean temperatures, highest and lowest temperatures by months, average depth of snowfall, mean relative humidity, prevailing wind direction, and frost data; hydrographic data compiled from the records of the U. S. Geological Survey; a chart showing the comparative monthly distribution of precipitation for certain New England stations, and a map showing the boundaries

of the "sections," with the location of the principal reporting stations, drainage basins and general elevation above sea level.

The summary for "Section 105," which includes New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, is similar in form and contents to that for Maine, just described. The precipitation record for Hanover, N. H., goes back to 1834; that for Burlington, Vt., to 1828; that for New Bedford, Mass., to 1814; that for Providence, R. I., to 1832, and that for New Haven, Conn., to 1804. All of these records, except those for New Bedford and Providence, have some breaks.

Summaries for "Sections" 1, 2, 3, 4, 49 and 87, range from Arizona and New Mexico to South Carolina. It does not appear on any of these summaries, how often they are to be issued, but we presume that they are to be published annually.

The first two numbers of the *Monthly Weather Review* in its new form (July and August, 1909) have also been issued. As has already been noted in the *Bulletin*, the *Review* will no longer contain general articles, of more or less popular interest, but will be confined chiefly to the publication of all the representative climatological data for the country as a whole. These data, grouped under the twelve new climatological districts, are preceded by a short account of the meteorological conditions for the month in question. The data are edited by local representatives familiar with the country, who prepare the monthly summaries made up from notes written by the several "section directors." The *Review* for July, 1909, embraces nearly 150 pages, and is therefore much larger than the old numbers. Professor F. H. Bigelow is in charge of the Climatological Division of the Weather Bureau, and Dr. Cleveland Abbe, Jr., is Assistant Editor of the *Review*. It is gratifying to see the discussion of certain phenomena of special interest during the month of July last, as, for example, of summer hot winds in Oklahoma; of the Texas hurricane of July 21, with a chart of the track of the storm and of the limits of damage, and with views of the Galveston sea wall, which did such effective service in protecting the city. Those who wish to keep in touch with current meteorological phenomena, as well as all persons who for any purpose desire to secure current climatological data, will need to make regular use of the new *Monthly Weather Review*. The librarian of the Weather Bureau, Mr. C. F. Talman, continues his bibliographic notes in the new *Review*.

The August, 1909, issue, is in general similar to that for July, but contains several charts which were not included in the July num-

ber. These charts show the total precipitation and the departures of the mean temperatures from the normal for each district; the total precipitation, the percentage of clear sky between sunrise and sunset, and the sea level isobars, isotherms and prevailing winds for the United States as a whole; and the tracks of anticyclones and cyclones, for August.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENT

A well-known arctic explorer has written to the Society to ask why two different latitudes are given in some of the best atlases for the highest north attained by Nansen. The fact is that more than two different statements as to his highest north have appeared in authoritative publications.

On April 7, 1895, Nansen's observations showed that he had much surpassed the highest previous record but, in his book, he makes no more account of this achievement than of any other position along his route. The fine map made by Bartholomew for the English edition of the book does not even give the latitude figures of his highest north. The explorer wrote in "Farthest North" that he had reached "about $86^{\circ}10' N.$;" and the English edition of his book adds, in a footnote, that on further calculation, his northmost point was $86^{\circ}13.6'$.

Later still, Vol. 2 of Nansen's "Scientific Results" gave $86^{\circ}12.8'$ as his highest point of observation and added that he walked about a mile further north. Stieler's Hand-Atlas takes this walk into account and gives Nansen $86^{\circ}14' N.$; Andrée's Hand-Atlas gives $86^{\circ}4'$, perhaps a misprint; and the last edition of Greely's "Hand-book" gives $86^{\circ}12'$.

Large scale maps showing the distribution of edible shellfish along the coasts of France have been in course of publication, for four years, in the *Bulletin de l'Institut océanographique de Monaco*. The laborious researches they record have been a work of love by two enthusiastic men of science, Prof. Joubin and Mr. Guérin, who hope, in two years more, to complete the mapping of the beds of shellfish on all the French coasts.

They were so fortunate as to secure the interest of a princely